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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,309	10/21/2003	Raphael Spero	DIG015-01	6908

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EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,309

Applicant(s)

SPERO ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cuff

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 15-17, 20, 21, 23-27, 29-34, 37-39, 42-43, 45-49, 51-58, 61 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barrett et al.

Barrett et al. shows, figure 1, a system and method for checking expense entries for compliance with policy rules and detecting the possibility of fraud is provided. The preferred embodiment includes a policy checker comprising a knowledge-based system designed to determine expense entries' compliance with policy rules and detect a possibility of fraud. The preferred embodiment also includes an auditor workflow system that works with the policy checker to guide manual audits of those expense entries that are not in compliance with the policy rules. The preferred embodiment also includes a data pattern analyzer that detects patterns of behavior that can be indicative of fraud. The preferred embodiment also includes a prioritizer for ranking detected policy violations. These systems work together to provide an automated system for checking expense entries for compliance with company rules, detecting instances where fraud is likely, and generating the appropriate reports. The receipt processing system 254 includes a receipt imaging application 204 and an optical character recognition (OCR) system 205. The receipt processing system 254 receives receipts

Art Unit: 3627

that are submitted in conjunction with expense entries, images the receipts using receipt imaging application 204 and then processes the receipts images through OCR system 205. Additionally, the receipt processing system 254 preferably receives electronic receipts supplied by the credit card companies that can be used to verify charged expenses. The auditor system 256 includes an audit workflow system 216 to assign and auditors to manually verify expense entries when needed. The administration system 258 includes a report generator 218, which creates reports for management use from the data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 13-14, 18-19, 22, 28, 35, 36, 40, 41, 44, 50, 59, 60, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett et al.

Barrett et al., as discussed above, shows all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying displaying reports at a web site, using encryption, and using specific display layouts.

The examiner takes Official Notice that the use of web sites in order to provide greater accessibility to information; the use of encryption in order to provide greater

Art Unit: 3627

security; and the ability to customize display layout in order to provide greater convenience to the user are all old and well known in the IT field.

Based on the discussion above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the Barrett et al. system to incorporate the use of web sites in order to provide greater accessibility to information; the use of encryption in order to provide greater security; and the ability to customize display layout in order to provide greater convenience to the user.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kolling et al., Erickson et al., Buchanan, and Ballard show systems of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (703) 308-0610. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 9/21/04
Michael Cuff
September 21, 2004